

## **REGULAR MEETING**

### **BELMONT REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY**

**TUESDAY, July 13, 2004**

**CALL TO ORDER 7:50 P.M.**

#### **ROLL CALL**

Directors Present: Mathewson, Warden, Feierbach, Metropulos

Directors Absent: Bauer

Staff Present: Assistant City Manager Rich, City Attorney Savaree, Community Development Director Ewing, Public Works Director Davis, District Secretary Cook.

#### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

**Approval of** Minutes: June 22, 2004.

**Action:** On a motion by Director Warden, seconded by Director Mathewson, the Consent Calendar was unanimously approved by a show of hands.

#### **ADDITIONAL BUSINESS**

##### **Discussion and Direction Regarding Short-Term Funding for Belmont Chamber of Commerce.**

Community Development Director Ewing stated that the Economic Development (ED) Plan would be discussed at the August Redevelopment Agency meeting, which includes initiatives proposed by the Belmont Chamber of Commerce. He noted that in the meantime, the Chamber is requesting interim support for stop-gap funding until such time as the ED Plan can be addressed. He clarified that the amount being requested by the Chamber was 25 percent of the amount provided last year.

**Mary Morrisey Parden**, President, Belmont Chamber of Commerce, stated that the Belmont Chamber of Commerce is a visible organization in the community. She outlined new projects that had been initiated by the Chamber during the previous year. She stated that the Chamber was in financial crisis, and that its proposal for the new fiscal year was based on Council input. She noted that the Chamber paid \$200 per month in rent when it was located in the Carlmont Shopping Center, which is proposed to increase to \$1700 in the new City Hall. She clarified that the Chamber would like to remain at City Hall. She also stated that most neighboring Chambers receive funding from their city. She commented that the Belmont Art & Wine Festival is not profitable, but could be. She reviewed the summary of the Chamber's proposed budget, and noted that it has no reserves. She added that the Chamber's membership fees are comparable to other cities. She also noted that the Chamber's funding from the City was reduced last year.

Director Warden stated there will be space available on the third floor of City Hall for the Chamber of Commerce, but noted that the Chamber has indicated it desired first floor space, which it cannot afford. He added that a rental agreement could be negotiated, and noted that rental fees are a General Fund revenue.

Community Development Director Ewing clarified that some of these issues would be addressed in detail at the August RDA meeting, and that the rent increase would be implemented with the completion of Phase I of City Hall.

In response to Director questions, Assistant City Manager Rich clarified that the new first floor space could be subdivided to meet the needs of the Chamber, and that there would be unallocated space available on each of the three floors. He noted that the Chamber had been given the rental rates for each of the spaces.

Director Feierbach stated that although the Community Group Funding was eliminated from the Budget, she would like to support the Chamber.

Director Mathewson agreed, and confirmed that the RDA Board and staff were not prepared for an extensive discussion on this matter at this time.

**Action:** On a motion by Director Mathewson, seconded by Director Feierbach, and unanimously approved by a show of hands (Bauer, absent) to provide Interim Funding of \$6,900 to the Belmont Chamber of Commerce, and to develop other proposals at a future date.

**ADJOURNMENT** at this time, being 8:13 P.M.

Meeting tape-recorded and videotaped Terri Cook

Tape No. 584 Agency Secretary